

Appl. No. 09/656,258
Amendment Dated August 6, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1(currently amended) A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article comprising one of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob having a cover part formed of a flexible and indentable material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible and indentable material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing an image sheet of a flexible material to be bonded to said member;

printing an image on said image sheet on a first side thereof;

placing said image sheet in contact with said member at a second and opposite side of said image sheet;

bonding said image sheet to said member by pressing said image sheet to said member and applying RF energy to adhere said image sheet to said member; and

debossing said member to form an a planar indentation therein while bonding said image sheet to said member in said indentation, said planar indentation having a depth at least as great as the thickness of said image sheet so as to recess said image sheet in said member.

Claim 2 (original) The method set forth in claim 1 including the step of:

cutting said image sheet from a larger sheet of the same material as said image sheet prior to placing said image sheet in contact with said member.

Claim 3 (canceled)

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Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original) The method set forth in claim 2 including the step of:

printing said image on said image sheet as part of said larger sheet, said larger sheet comprising opaque pre-colored material, said printing comprising one of inkjet printing, photostatic printing, and thermal ribbon printing.

Claim 9 (original) The method set forth in claim 8 including the step of:

providing an image from an image source by one of scanning and copying said image from said image source and transferring said image to a printing apparatus for printing said image on said image sheet.

Claim 10 (original) The method set forth in claim 1 including the step of:

applying an ink receptive coating on said image sheet prior to printing an image thereon.

Claim 11 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 10 including the step of:

providing a textured surface of said image sheet prior to applying said coating on said image sheet.

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Claim 12 (original) The method set forth in claim 1 including the step of:

laminating a transparent laminate sheet onto said image sheet over said image.

Claim 13 (original) The method set forth in claim 2 including the steps of:

printing multiple images on said larger sheet and cutting multiple image sheets from said larger sheet.

Claim 14 (original) The method set forth in claim 13 including the step of:

laminating a transparent laminate sheet to said larger sheet over said images.

Claim 15 (original) The method set forth in claim 14 including the step of:

providing said image sheet of polyvinyl chloride.

Claim 16 (original) The method set forth in claim 15 including the step of:

providing said laminate sheet of polyvinyl chloride.

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Claim 17. (currently amended) A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article comprising one of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob having a cover part formed of a flexible and indentable material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible and indentable material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing a sheet of flexible plastic material adapted to be receptive to multiple printed images on one side of said sheet of flexible plastic material;

transferring an image to be applied to said sheet of flexible plastic material to a processor;

causing said processor to control a printer for printing multiple images on said sheet of flexible plastic material;

cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material along predetermined contours of said images, respectively;

placing at least one of said image sheets in contact with said member; and

bonding said at least one image sheet to said member by engaging said at least one image sheet with a debossing die and applying RF energy to bond said at least one image sheet to said member at ~~an~~ a planar indentation formed in said member whereby said at least one image sheet is disposed in a debossed planar window area formed in said member having a depth at least about equal to the thickness of said image sheet.

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Claim 18 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

debossing said member to form said indentation therein to provide a guide for locating said at least one image sheet on said member prior to placing said at least one image sheet in contact with said member.

Claim 19 (original) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

placing said at least one image sheet on said debossing die and placing said member over said at least one image sheet prior to bonding said at least one image sheet to said member.

Claim 20 (original) The method set forth in claim 17 including the steps of:

locating a guide device on said member for guiding the placement of said at least one image sheet on said member and placing said at least one image sheet on said member in a predetermined position as provided by said guide device.

Claim 21 (original) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

directing at least one light beam on a predetermined location on said member for guiding the placement of said at least one image sheet on said member.

Claim 22 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

laminating a flexible transparent sheet onto said sheet of flexible plastic material prior to cutting said image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material.

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Claim 23 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 22 including the step of:

providing said sheet of flexible plastic material and said transparent sheet of polyvinyl chloride, respectively.

Claim 24 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

debossing said member to form said indentation therein while bonding said at least one image sheet to said member.

Claim 25 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

providing said sheet of flexible plastic material and said member of polyvinyl chloride.

Claim 26 (previously amended) The method set forth in claim 17 including the step of:

applying an ink receptive coating on said sheet of flexible plastic material prior to printing images thereon.

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

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Claim 29 (currently amended) A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article comprising one of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, or keyfob having a cover part formed of a flexible and indentable material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible and indentable material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing an image sheet of a flexible material to be bonded to said member;

printing an image on said image sheet on a first side thereof;

debossing said member to form an a substantially planar indentation therein having a depth at least about equal to the thickness of said image sheet;

placing a second and opposite side of said image sheet in contact with said member within said indentation; and

bonding said image sheet to said member within said indentation by pressing said image sheet to said member and applying RF energy to adhere said image sheet to said member.

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Claim 30 (currently amended) A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article comprising one of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, or keyfob having a cover part formed of a flexible and indentable material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible and indentable material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing an image sheet of a flexible material to be bonded to said member;

printing an image on said image sheet on a first side thereof;

providing a substantially planar debossing die and placing said image sheet on said debossing die

placing said member in engagement with said image sheet at a second and opposite side of said image sheet; and

bonding said image sheet to said member by pressing said image sheet and said member together while supported on said debossing die and applying RF energy to adhere said image sheet to said member while indenting forming a substantially planar indentation in said member.

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Claim 31 (new) A method of making an article with a printed image thereon, said article comprising one of a portfolio, desk folder, binder, wallet, luggage tag, memo pad or keyfob having a cover part formed of a flexible material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a member formed of said flexible material and comprising at least a portion of said cover part of said article;

providing a sheet of flexible plastic material adapted to be receptive to multiple printed images on one side of said sheet of flexible plastic material;

transferring an image to be applied to said sheet of flexible plastic material to a processor;

causing said processor to control a printer for printing multiple images on said sheet of flexible plastic material;

cutting multiple image sheets from said sheet of flexible plastic material along predetermined contours of said images, respectively;

placing at least one of said image sheets in contact with a substantially planar surface of said member; and

bonding said at least one image sheet to said member by engaging said at least one image sheet with a substantially planar die and applying RF energy to bond said at least one image sheet to said member whereby a substantially planar image is presented on said member.